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ENLARGED CERVICAL GLANDS—SPASM OF THE GLOTTIS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—A few months since, I noticed some criticisms in your Journal, on a paper of mine published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, on the thymus gland, with particular reference to the subject of thymic asthma, or spasm of the glottis. In my communication I thought proper to call in question the supposed influence of hypertrophy of this organ, in producing the above disease, or any affection of an analogous character. I, however, distinctly stated that such affections might be caused by enlarged cervical glands, as maintained by the late Hugh Ley, in his work on Laryngismus Stridulus, and I have lately attended a case which fully proves such to be the fact.

The case was that of a boy five years of age, who had been subject to a convulsive, paroxysmal cough for nearly two years; with the exception of which, his health was apparently good. In July, 1841, he had the measles, after which his cough was more frequent and troublesome than before. For several months he had been in the habit of starting up, frightened in his sleep, and screaming out, and latterly this had increased upon him. During the first week in January of the present year, he became unwell, was restless and feverish at night, the skin became hotter than natural, and the pulse frequent, respiration hurried and rather laborious, and these symptoms increased, in spite of medical treatment, together with the cough, which, at times, seemed to threaten suffocation. He continued on thus for a week, perhaps, when the respiration became so difficult, that he had to be kept in a perpendicular position all the time. The moment he lay down, a fit of coughing and choking succeeded, which would last for several minutes. The same occurred when there was any smoke or dust in the room. At length severe fits of spasm of the glottis came on, attended with the peculiar crowing inspiration, together with the other distressing symptoms accompanying this affection. These would last about half an hour, during which the patient seemed in imminent danger of suffocation. The symptoms during these paroxysms are well described by Mr. Fletcher, as follows: "The patient, when first seized with spasm of the glottis, starts up suddenly, tossing his arms in wild affright; an expression of terror sits upon his countenance; the eyebrows are raised over balls that are starting from their sockets; the shoulders rise and fall, as with an open mouth and incredible exertions, air is drawn through the nearly obstructed tube with a singular and alarming sound: not a word is uttered."

The last paroxysm continued about three hours, during which my patient breathed his last; being perfectly rational up to the last moment.

Autopsy.—On each side of the larynx, opposite the lower portion of the thyroid cartilage, there was found an enlarged cervical gland, dense and hard, of the size of a chesnut, pressing directly upon the recurrent branch of the par vagum. The gland affected was one of the glandulæ concatinatæ, lying at the side of the trachea, and some of which are found between the trachea and œsophagus. The mucous membrane lining the larynx, was considerably congested, and the portion which covers the sides of the glottis was softened and relaxed to that degree, that during inspiration I have no doubt it was drawn directly into the *rima glottidis*, obstructing the admission of air into the lungs.

These were all the morbid appearances observed, except the dark color of the blood, and congestion of the brain and lungs, which we should expect to meet with in cases of death by asphyxia.

Remarks.—I view the above case as one of some importance, as it establishes the fact, that "Spasm of the Glottis," or "Laryngismus Stridulus," may be caused by enlarged cervical glands. The error of Ley consists in not admitting that the disease may be occasioned by other sources of irritation. This palpable error has led physicians to deny that there was any truth whatever in Ley's theory. This case also demonstrates that those pathologists equally err, who attribute this affection invariably to enlargement of the thymus gland, or teething. I have conceded, in the paper already alluded to, the occasional efficiency of these causes, as well as gastric and cerebral irritation, in producing the disease in question. What I maintain is, that irritation, wherever set up, in children, is apt to be reflected upon the respiratory organs, and particularly upon the glottis; and hypertrophy of the thymus is generally the *effect*, and not the *cause*, of lesions, both of the respiratory and circulatory systems. Such can be demonstrated to be the necessary result of such a pathological condition of these organs.

Should I have another case similar to the above, I should resort to tracheotomy, as a measure likely to prove successful; at any rate, as the only means which would seem to furnish the least chance of safety to the patient. Of course it is not to be thought of in ordinary cases, nor in any case until other means of treatment have proved unavailing.

New York, Jan. 19, 1843. CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.

P. S. As a circumstance perhaps throwing some light upon the present litigated subject of *animal heat,* I may mention that during the fits of suffocation, and especially the last, which continued three hours, the patient often complained of *being cold*, and it was impossible to warm him so as to satisfy him.

HOT AIR AND SULPHUR FUME BATHS IN CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

BY SILAS DURKEE, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

CASES OF LICHEN.

Case I.—Mrs. G., aged 35, of sanguine, bilious temperament, had been troubled for several months with an inflammatory papular eruption upon different portions of the skin. The regions affected when her case came under my notice were, the outer aspect of the middle third of the left arm, and a few small patches upon the trunk of the body and upon the lower limbs. The arm was the worst. The papulæ here, as seen through a magnifier, were acuminated, crowded together in one large and well-defined cluster, of a moderately red color compared with the adjacent healthy surface, above which they were scarcely elevated. A slight serous exhalation emanated from them, and every eight or ten days they set up a furfuraceous desquamation. They occasioned severe smarting and pruritus whenever the patient took active exercise; the heat of the bed also produced the same trouble in an augmented degree. From the history and appearance of the disease, there was no difficulty in recognizing it as *lichen circumscriptus*. The patient had been under the care of her family physician for several weeks, and as all the symptoms still maintained their activity, she came, at his suggestion, to avail herself of the hot-air and sulphur-fume baths, as auxiliary to other curative measures, which she continued under his supervision. She commenced the baths on the 10th of January. The directions from her physician were that she should take one every other day; but her domestic engagements were such that her attendance upon the baths was very irregular. During the first few trials the diseased integument became more inflamed than before she commenced them; in consequence of which they were omitted for one week, during which the patient was put under the action of saline medicines in aperient doses. The baths were again resumed, and continued pretty regularly every other day. The quantity of sulphur hitherto used was ℥ iij.; it was now reduced to ℥ ij. The temperature of the apparatus at the previous sittings had not been allowed to go higher than 118 or 120 degrees. The patient was now exposed to a heat of 125 to 130 degrees, and remained in the bath 30 to 35 minutes.

Indications of amendment, as seen upon the arm, began to appear at several points. The papulæ became fainter and fewer, until numerous small spots of healthy surface were brought to view. These soon coalesced one with another; and in this manner the cure progressed until seventeen baths were administered, by which time the whole area of the affected circuits was free from every vestige of the eruption, and the skin was restored to its healthy properties.

Case II.—Miss E. B., aged 23, of a full vigorous habit, had been afflicted for twelve months with *chronic lichen simplex*, disseminated upon the neck, shoulders and upper part of chest. About six weeks before she called upon me, the inflammation assumed a more active type, in consequence of exposure and carelessness. The skin became thickened, acquired a deeper red color, blended with a yellowish tint, was dry, and cast off an abundant pulverulent exfoliation from time to time, and would apparently be about to subside entirely; but instead of this result, a fresh recurrence of all the symptoms would supervene. The sensation of smarting and prickling was annoying if she attempted to perform any active labor during the day, and it was still more aggravating and tormenting from the heat of the bed by night.

The successive crops of papulæ, surmounting the skin, were not so distinctly or regularly evolved as in the case related above. Preceded by severe smarting and itchiness, they appeared in the form of minute points, hardly perceptible to the eye, but very appreciable to the finger, which passing over the eruption, could detect the presence of small, hard bodies, agglomerated, as if the skin were loaded with them.

A variety of remedies, local and constitutional, having been resorted to without producing any amelioration of the complaint, her physician was desirous that she should make trial of the sulphur fumigations, in conjunction with an abstemious diet and aperient medicines, which he had recommended. She commenced the baths on the 25th of April, 1842. She took them twice a week for five weeks, by which time the eruption, with all its accompaniments, was brought to an end. Quantity of sulphur used at each bath, ℥ iij.; time occupied in the apparatus, 45 minutes; temperature on entering the box, 100 degrees, and gradually increased to 130 degrees. The stimulus of the two or three first fumigations occasioned some increase of the local irritation for a few hours after their application. The use of a tepid alkaline wash (subcarb. potas. ʒ ij. to two gallons water) was sufficient to allay this temporary inconvenience, and was beneficial also in procuring desquamation of the cuticle. The patient has had no return of the disease.

Case III.—The remaining case which I have to report under this division of cutaneous diseases, is that of J. C., deaf and dumb, from New Hampshire, of a tall slender frame, and shoemaker by trade. Has had a lichenoid eruption for four years, with occasional intervals of a few weeks of comparative freedom from the malady. It sometimes diffuses itself upon the trunk of the body, and sometimes upon the anterior and inner surface of the lower extremities—the latter being the only affected localities at the time of his applying to me. His pulse was languid; suffered much inconvenience from vertigo; hands and feet cold except in quite warm weather; bowels torpid; general health not at all good. Has occasionally consulted a regular physician, but of late his chief hope of cure has rested on the use of various patent drugs—Brandreth's pills bringing up the rear; and to the influence of these his debile condition is doubtless in a great measure to be attributed.

On the first of August last, this patient came to the city to spend a few weeks here and in the vicinity with some relatives, by whom he was advised to consult me in regard to the expediency of taking the baths.

The eruption bore the features of *lichen simplex* of a chronic character; papulæ of moderate redness, and attended with the ordinary concomitants of prickling, itchiness, &c., and the patient resorted to the usual method of assuaging these harassing evils—the use of the nails—in consequence of which numerous superficial abrasions were produced and kept in a state of constant irritation.

He was directed a dose of Rochelle salts, and to wash himself thoroughly in soft warm water and soap, as preparatory to his commencing a succession of the baths next day. He was now in a suitable condition to derive advantage from the fumigations, and I felt confident not only that the cutaneous affection would be subdued at once, but that a salutary impulse would be given to all the vital functions of the system. The baths were administered every other day—thermometer at the commencement of each sitting, 100 degrees, and increased during the progress of each bath to 130 degrees—quantity of sulphur, ℥ iij. He took seven baths, and made use, daily, of the alkaline wash. Internally he took, night and morning, ten to twelve grains of a powder composed of sulphur lot., carb. sodæ, pulv. rhei, equal parts, which kept the bowels in a good condition. He was allowed a generous diet.

After a fourth bath there began to be a desquamation of the cuticle, from which time the eruption faded away rapidly; and by the 18th of the month it had entirely disappeared. The patient was dismissed with advice to preserve his skin in a pure and healthy state by continuing the practice of the warm alkaline ablutions twice a week, and with the assurance that he would receive his reward therein. He sent me word, about ten days ago, that his old cutaneous complaint had not troubled him since his return home in August—that he had got a new skin, and that his general health was perfectly good.

26 *Howard Street, Boston, Feb.* 1843.

EXTENSIVE LACERATION OF THE MUSCLES OF THE FORE-ARM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—Should you think, with me, that the following case furnishes any valuable or interesting practical suggestions, you will please give it a place in your Journal.

June, 1840, a young man aged about 22, of unusual physical development, as regards both size and strength, of good health and habits, was engaged at a *shingle machine*, which does its work by means of a *circular saw*, that is moved with great power and velocity. By some unfortunate movement, the right fore-arm was brought in contact with the saw just below the olecranon of the ulna, making an exceedingly ragged, lacerated wound through the integuments, something more than equal to the circumference of the arm, but owing to the obliquity it did not quite encircle the limb. It severed, or partially severed, a large portion of the numerous muscles on the exterior and posterior sides of the arm, and disconnected the attachments of others; *shattered off the ulna*, leaving only the olecranon for the upper fragment; tore away almost every vestige of the capsular ligament, leaving its relations exposed, and the extremity of the radius naked and protruding about three inches. The olecranon was drawn from its location upwards by the triceps muscle, requiring much force for its reduction, and a partial detachment of the biceps before it could be confined.

After an examination of the wound, it seemed a nice question to determine what course was most judicious to be adopted. In the first place, it was doubtful whether the limb could be preserved; and if preserved, whether it would not be worse than useless. From the consideration that the principal branches of the brachial vessels had escaped injury, and that the patient was young, temperate and of sound constitution, great reliance was placed upon the restorative powers. Consequently the shattered extremities of the ulna and olecranon were removed by the saw; making a loss of about two and a half inches to the ulna. Having thus disposed of the ulna, the next question was, what shall be done with the projecting and naked extremity of the radius. By a state of perfect extension of the arm, it could be reduced to its natural location, and the integuments ultimately restored by granulation. But the reader will readily perceive the many weighty objections to this position, where anchylosis is to be the probable consequence of restoration. It was therefore thought, that by removing the extremity of the radius, muscular contraction might bring the mutilated extremities of this and the ulna into the place of the original articulation, and there, the ordinary efforts of nature (ever so prompt and ingenious in repairing all losses and restoring all deficiencies) might furnish cartilaginous or more simple fibrous connections, that would, in some measure, do the office of a natural articulation, and thus avoid perfect anchylosis; or, what was still more desirable, that a timely approximation of the bones might be followed by a union of the two fragments of the ulna, and thus leave us a still more perfect and useful articulation. The last hope, though least expected, was fully realized.

So much of the radius was removed, as to leave it of its relative length with the ulna. The shattered spiculæ of bone were removed, the olecranon reduced and confined to its former situation, the extremities of the wound brought together, and confined by sutures and adhesive straps, and the limb secured in a partially flexed position. The inflammatory process and restoration of the soft parts were exceedingly rapid. As inflammation and suppuration subsided, the muscles recovered their tone and energy, and gradually approximated the bones, till the new extremity of the ulna was in contact with its olecranon process, and the extremity of the radius occupying the place of its original extremity.

In a few months I had the satisfaction to find a union of the ulna to its process, and in about a year a joint, little if any inferior to the original. The pronator and supinator muscles do not so perfectly perform their office. Flexion and extension are as perfect as ever—the general muscular power of the limb greater than that of the other. Patient "*can lift a barrel of pork, or chop as much as ever.*" The joint is somewhat enlarged, and the limb about four inches shorter than its fellow (giving the impression of a *material mistake* in the original construction)—a fact I was not able to account for (as there was not so great a loss of bone, or any protrusion of the radius and ulna past the humeri), unless there was an absorption of the extremities of the former, subsequent to the operation and prior to union, and there seemed not to have been time for this process previous to union, neither were there any other indications of it.

To me, it seems that this is one of the cases calculated to inspire us with a confidence in the *restorative power*, that would diminish the *frequency of amputations*, which, in *my humble opinion*, have, from the time of *Harvey, been more frequent than a just appreciation* of this power would warrant. Yours respectfully,

Old Town, Me., Dec. 21, 1842. J. C. Bradbury.

CHRONIC ABSCESS OF THE THYROID GLAND.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In July, 1842, a woman, twenty-five years of age, nursing and in fine health, was sent to me by Dr. J. P. Stryker, of Newtown, L. I., with a hemispherical tumor of doughy consistence, 3 1-2 inches in diameter, perfectly regular on its surface, attended with no pain, and occupying the region of the thyroid gland. There was no fluctuation, and the tumor followed the motions of the trachea in deglutition. It made its appearance three months previously, during pregnancy. The only symptom that induced me to doubt that this was a chronic enlargement of the thyroid, was its regular surface, and its hemispherical shape, as I had never before seen one with these characteristics in so marked a degree—the superimposed muscles and unequal development in the two lobes, always causing some slight irregularity of surface. Dr. Stryker having put her on the use of iodine, I continued it—ʒ ss. of the hyd. pot. to the ounce of lard—ʒ i. of the ointment to be rubbed in thrice a day. Her perfect freedom from scrofula, and the fact of her nursing, induced me to withhold constitutional treatment. In August she returned to town, with no alteration in the size of the tumor, but its consistence much altered, being softer and less moveable on deglutition. I now resolved to introduce a seton.

Delighting, in common with all who have profited by his instructions or experienced his courtesy, to exchange opinions with my friend and preceptor, I submitted the case to Dr. Mott. After a careful and prolonged examination, he proposed its puncture. This was done in his presence with a small needle, and gave issue to pure pus. I enlarged the incision and drew off about ℥ viij. No further treatment was suggested at the time. After the evacuation of all the matter, the collapsed tumor presented the same doughy feel that it did on my first examination. This peculiarity was as apparent in the centre as at the circumference, where there was none of that evident induration that limits the extent of an abscess in the cellular tissue.

About six weeks from this time the patient returned, with the abscess nearly as large as before. I again drew off about ℥ vi. of matter, in presence of Dr. Cyrus Weeks, and injected the cyst with a solution of sulph. zinci—ʒ i. to the pint of water, as in hydrocele, directing the patient to call, should circumstances require. In a fortnight she appeared, with a pedunculated tumor, the size and shape of a large hen's egg, hanging from the puncture, its neck tightly grasped thereby, and the lips of the wound perfectly healthful in appearance. Observing its slight attachment, and its disposition to separate, I very foolishly let her go, desiring her to return when it should drop off, and bring me the tumor. This she failed to do, and I lost the opportunity of examining it, which could have been secured had I snipped it off. In feel it was precisely like the collapsed tumor, and I have no doubt was the remains of the gland constituting the cyst, and slightly thickened by lymph, designed to limit the progress of the abscess. I saw the patient two months since, and she informed me that it dropped off on the second day after I saw it. The wound is perfectly healed, there is neither induration nor enlargement of the sterno-hyoid region, and its muscles perform their proper functions.

Remarks.—Dr. Hunter observed abscesses of the thyroid gland. Postiglione remarks, "that the whole gland may be encysted and contain matter." Flajani says, "when the disease *contains* a cyst, I prefer making an opening with a trochar, though this is apt to be followed by a relapse when the cyst is thick and hard."

Quere.—Are not these cysts the condensed remains of the gland ?

The practice of injection, so far as I know, is new.

New York, Jan., 1843. E. H. Dixon.

A CONCISE VIEW OF THE BENEFITS OF ANATOMY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The original definition of anatomy, is the art of dissecting, or artificially separating and taking to pieces the different parts of the human body, in order to an exact discovery of their structure, situation, and economy. The word is Greek, *anatome*, derived from *anatemno*, to dissect, or separate by cutting. This art seems to have been very ancient, though for a long time known only in an imperfect manner. The first men who lived must have soon acquired some notions of the structure of their own bodies, particularly of the external parts, and of some even of the internal, such as bones, joints, and sinews, which are exposed to the examination of the senses in living bodies. The philosophers of the earliest ages, . e. the men of curiosity, observation, experience, and reflection, could not overlook an instance of natural organization, which was so interesting, and at the same time so wonderful, more especially such of them as applied themselves to the study and cure of diseases. We know that physic was a branch of philosophy till the age of Hippocrates. Thus the art must have been circumstanced in the beginning. In fact, it does not appear, by the writings of the Grecians, Jews, or Phœnicians, or of other eastern countries, that anatomy was particularly cultivated by any of the eastern nations. In tracing it backwards to its infancy, we cannot go further into antiquity than the times of the Grecian philosophers.

Hippocrates was nearly cotemporary with the great philosophers whom we have just alluded to. about 400 years B. C. He is said to have separated the profession of philosophy and physic, and to have been the first who applied himself to physic alone as the business of his life.

He is likewise generally supposed to be the first who wrote upon anatomy. We know nothing that was written expressly upon this subject before; and the first anatomical dissection which has been recorded, was made by his friend Democritus of Abdera.

Anatomy is at once an art and a science; an art, inasmuch as the pursuit of it requires skilful manipulation; and a science, inasmuch as certain general principles are deducible from it. The object of anatomy is to ascertain the structure of organized bodies. Of the two great kingdoms of nature, the inorganic and the organic, it comprehends the whole range of the latter. Like the organized kingdom itself, it forms two divisions, the one including the structure of plants—vegetable anatomy; the other the structure of animals—animal anatomy. Animal anatomy is divided into comparative and human: comparative anatomy includes an account of the structure of all classes of animals, excepting that of man; human anatomy is restricted to an account of the structure of man only. Human anatomy is subdivided into descriptive, general, and pathological.

Descriptive anatomy comprehends a description of all the various parts or organs of the human body, together with an account of their situation, connections, and relations, as these circumstances exist in the natural and sound, or, as it is technically termed, the normal condition of the body. The human stomach, e. g., is composed of a number of membranes, which are united in a particular manner; a number of blood-vessels, which are derived from particular arterial trunks; a number of nerves, which proceed from a particular portion of the brain and spinal cord; a number of absorbent vessels, and so on. Moreover, this organ is always placed in a particular cavity of the body, and is always found to have certain specific connections or relations with other organs. The anatomy of the human stomach comprehends an account of all the particulars of this kind, which are uniformly found to concur in all human bodies in which the conformation is regular or natural. And so of every other organ of the body; and because such an exposition of the structure of the various organs includes a description of all the circumstances that relate to their organization, it is called DESCRIPTIVE ANATOMY.

After the study of the human body in this mode has been carried to a certain extent, with a certain degree of success, it necessarily gives origin to a second division of the science, that termed *general* anatomy. It is found, that many of the circumstances which belong to any one organ, belong at the same time to several organs; and that thus several individual circumstances are common to many organs. Of the membranes, e. g., of which it has been stated that the stomach is composed, some are common to it and to the intestines, to the bladder, to the uterus, to the air-passages, and so on. In like manner, with respect to any one of these membranes, when its structure is carefully examined, it is found that in many points its organization is exactly similar to that of all other membranes. This view, extended, leads to further important and interesting results. All the arteries of the body, whatever their situation, size, or office, are found to be composed essentially of the same substances, disposed in nearly the same order and form. All the veins have, in like manner, a structure essentially the same. All the absorbent vessels, all vessels of every kind, all the bones, muscles, and nerves, the whole external covering of the body, or the skin, widely as these various structures differ from each other, present no material difference as far as regards the organization of each particular class. Hence various organs of the body are disposed into what are called *common systems*, and these common systems are said to consist of common substances or tissues. All the vessels, e. g., are collected and arranged under one common class, called the *vascular system*; in like manner, all the bones are collected and arranged under another class, called the *osseous* system; all the muscles under another, called the *muscular* system; all the nerves under another, called the *nervous* system, and so on. The material that enters into the composition of each of these systems consists of a substance of a peculiar nature; but as this substance is more or less generally diffused over the whole body, entering as a constituent element into the various organs, it is termed a common substance, or tissue. What is termed the common cellular tissue, e. g., is the substance of which all the membranes and vessels of the body are composed; the muscular tissue is the substance of which all the muscles are composed; the nervous tissue is the substance of which all the nerves are composed: and thus, the structure of the body, analyzed in this mode, innumerable and complex as the substances appear to be of which it consists, is ultimately reduced to a very few simple materials, by the combination and modification of which all the different animal substances are produced. That part of anatomy which displays these common substances, and which describes all that relates to these differences, analogies, combinations, and so on, is termed GENERAL ANATOMY.

Descriptive and general anatomy, then, include an account of the structure of the body as it exists in a state of health. But there is no organ of the body, and no tissue which enters into its composition, which is not subject to disease; in consequence of disease, the regular or natural structure of the component substances of the body become changed in a great variety of modes. That part of anatomy which displays these diseased or morbid changes, and which describes all the circumstances relating to them, is called PATHOLOGICAL, or MORBID ANATOMY.

We may say, then, that descriptive anatomy comprehends an account of all the parts or organs of the body as they exist in the state of health; general anatomy comprehends an account of all the separate substances of which these organs are composed, not as these substances exist combined in organs, but as they form distinct and peculiar substances; pathological anatomy comprehends an account of all the changes of structure produced by disease, whether in individual organs, or in the primitive or common substances of which these organs are composed.

[To be continued.]

Boston, Dec. 12, 1842. R. C.

ABSTINENCE FROM DRINKS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—At your request, I send you the story of two very curious, and I would fain hope instructive experiments, made for a purpose which will appear in the progress of the narrative. Let me premise, however, that I do not consider these experiments as having much bearing on the great question of cutaneous absorption. There is no reason to believe that any more fluid was received into the system, either through the skin or the pulmonary tissue, than usual; and it is not very philosophical to refer to another cause those effects for which the character of the ingesta will sufficiently account.

For many years I had drank nothing *with my meals*, believing it better to let the teeth and salivary glands perform their whole office. As my food was plain and unstimulating, I was seldom thirsty between meals, so that I gradually fell into the habit of drinking nothing at all—sometimes for whole weeks together.

The thought struck me, one day, after an abstinence of several weeks, that I would try the effects of abstaining for a period still longer. Accordingly, for the nine months and twenty days which followed August 6, 1839, I drank nothing, and was only thirsty ten or a dozen times during that whole period. My food was, as usual, farinaceous vegetables (including, of course, a full proportion of bread) and fruits. I used no more liquid food than I had been accustomed to use—perhaps about two gallons of milk in the whole time in the way of condiment, and half a dozen pints of water gruel.

But as this season of abstinence did not include the hottest part of the season—a season when perspiration is apt to be most free—I was not satisfied with the results, and accordingly drank nothing from January 1st, 1842, to the end of the year. Indeed, I have not yet returned to the use of drink, being resolved to wait the return of natural thirst; and no such thirst has, as yet, arrived.

If it is asked whether I experienced no thirst during these long seasons of abstinence, I answer—yes, occasionally. When I spoke or conversed two or three hours in succession, with great earnestness or vehemence, or when I ate salted, or sweetened, or highly concentrated food, I sometimes felt thirst, but it soon passed off, except in the case of salted food. I have sometimes been quite thirsty from long speaking, and yet on desisting but ten minutes, the thirst wholly disappeared. But salt in food, when in excess (producing, as it does, a degree of inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach and adjacent parts) is not so easily got rid of. It was on one of these occasions that I yielded to the desire to drink, and shortened my first experiment. By avoiding the use of salted food, I have been able to go through the past year without suffering. In fact, I can truly and honestly say, that except in a single instance, I have suffered less from thirst, so far as I can recollect, than during any previous year of my whole life.

The exception just referred to is as follows. Fearing it might be said, that as I was a sedentary man, the experiment was not a fair one, I went to work, late in July last, at haying. The day was excessively hot, and I labored beyond my strength. Thirst came on, somewhat severe, to obviate which I gargled my throat several times with cold water. The second day I did the same, though not so frequently. I also ate liquid food during the two days, viz. bread and water; the bread being broken into water, as many break it into milk. There was the greater necessity of doing this, as I had no good fruit, just at this time, to form a part of my meals. After the lapse of two days, I felt no more thirst, although I continued to labor as hard, and the heat was about as great as before.

Should it be asked whether I perspired freely, and whether the kidneys performed their proper office, I reply that there was no profuse perspiration at any time, except during the first day's labor. At all other times, perspiration was gentle, though free. The kidneys sometimes seemed a little inactive, though not generally so. For the most part the functions of the body and the faculties of the mind have been about as usual.

This allusion to the state of the mental faculties, reminds me of the necessity of correcting an error which has gone abroad, in relation to these experiments, and which may have done temporary injury to the cause they were designed to promote. It has been intimated that I was a believer in total abstinence from all drinks, even water; than which nothing can be more untrue; and I respectfully request those editors who have contributed to this impression, to copy this article into their papers.

But why, then, some may still ask, should I hazard such experiments? The question is a fair one, and shall be fairly answered.

As to hazard, in the first place, there is none, in a case like my own. The man who can maintain perfect vigor of body and mind in the use of a diet of bread and fruits and succulent vegetables, hazards nothing in abstaining from any other fluid than what is contained in his apples, pears, strawberries, whortleberries, currants, melons, potatoes, beets, turnips, &c. Even bread contains much water. *He* will not suffer whose food, for the day, includes from two to six pints of water.

But the great object of the experiments, in the second place, was to prove, for the benefit of the friends of temperance, that if our food is simple and plain, we need but very little drink. It is well known that one fruitful source of that morbid thirst which every where prevails, and which is the predisposing cause of a large share of our intemperance, is high-seasoned, over-stimulating food. Let every source of undue mental and physical excitement be avoided in the education of each rising generation, and there is hope that in due time the great end which the friends of temperance have in view may be accomplished. Did mankind, from the earliest infancy, yield strict obedience to all the laws of their being, three fourths of the water now poured down—not *drank*—might be dispensed with; and every other drink, except water, might be banished from society.

W. A. Alcott.

Dedham, Feb. 5, 1843.

THE WARM BATH.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

It is obvious that the subject of warm bathing engrosses a more conspicuous share of the public attention at the present time, than at any former period in the history of this country. Happily for us, as a community, the too much neglected, yet important consideration of the functions of the skin, have awakened the thoughts of the medical profession generally throughout its whole extent. The lucid accounts of literary and scientific gentlemen who have travelled in the East, carry conviction upon this subject, to every observing mind, of the benefits resulting from this salutary process. Though we are not like many other "nations of the East," where bathing has assumed the rank and importance of "religious observances," yet the warm bath is resorted to as a luxury, and a means of preserving health and cleanliness, and much more frequently prescribed as a remedy than formerly; for we have not been so backward as not to know that "when the saline and animal elements left by perspiration, are not properly removed by washing or bathing, they at last obstruct the pores and irritate the skin." Still we are very far behind those who consider it necessary to the healthy performance of those functions on which the continuance of life depends. Even the hot air bath may often be used with the very best effects, in many morbid and chronic diseases, by producing an action upon the skin, and through its medium, upon the nervous system. It equalizes the circulation of the blood and nervous influence, it promotes cutaneous exhalation, and is becoming an important and successful remedial agent.

The *Vapor Bath* is calculated to be much more extensively useful. Assuming the foremost rank in exciting the vital action, it removes every imperceptible incrustation of the pores, leaves the skin soft and smooth, and prepares it to resist cold better than before its use, by imparting tone and activity to all the glandular and organic functions internally that act sympathetically throughout the whole system. Attacks of colds, fever, rheumatism, and the diseases caused by long checked perspiration, are frequently arrested by its timely use. In the widely extended catalogue of eruptive and other chronic affections, of not only the skin itself, but of the interior organs with which the skin sympathizes closely, as the stomach, intestines, &c., its judicious application is productive of great relief. In affections of the mucous membrane, and those diseases which resemble consumption in their symptoms, there has not been discovered a substitute for it. In most of the morbid affections of the nervous invalid, where the *mind* sympathizes through the physical organs, and broods over melancholy apprehensions, its soothing influences are even more conspicuous. For, as Dr. Combe, of Edinburgh, justly remarks, "So intimately and beautifully are all the parts of the frame connected with each other, that what is really good for one, rarely fails to be beneficial to the rest." The elements of calculation are insufficient to estimate the benefits which would result from the judicious use of the warm bath, upon the health and longevity of the inhabitants of this country, when properly introduced.

Hitherto the want of proper and convenient apparatus has been its greatest hindrance, for a person must have a perverted taste that does not appreciate the luxury of the warm bath. *A Portable Apparatus,* by which this salutary process can be accomplished in a few minutes, should be considered a desideratum by every medical philosopher. Happily for the community, Messrs. Hicks & Minor, of Middletown, Conn., have invented a *Portable Bath,* which is a beautiful piece of furniture, well adapted to the use of physicians, having an apparatus for converting medicines into vapor, and containing within itself all the elements of its operation—and for *private families,* being so simple that any one may conduct it; the whole process of which may be completed in from fifteen to twenty minutes. Even a superficial examination of the merits of this article cannot fail to convince any one of its great utility, not the least of which is its convenience for use ordinarily in families, and the sick chamber. J. T.

OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT THE MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

[Reported for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Jan. 28th.—*Opening of Scrofulous Tumor,* by Dr. **Townsend.**—About five years ago, patient first perceived a tumor of the size of a cherry on left side of neck, which has increased gradually, without pain or inconvenience, up to the present time. Some fluctuation has been perceived in it for some time past, which has increased of late. At the time of operation, abscess was much bound down by the sterno-cleido-mastoideus muscle, at each side of which it appeared of the size of a horse-chesnut; fluctuation most distinct at back part of tumor. An incision was made with a lancet, and about ℥ ij. of serous and curdy matter evacuated.

Division of Tendo-Achillis. for Congenital Varus, by Dr. **Hayward.**—Patient entered the Hospital Dec. 9, at which time she could not place the sole of left foot upon the ground, and walked on the outer face of tarsus; the tendo-Achillis was divided Dec. 10th, and the extending apparatus has been since applied daily. Since the operation, foot is very much improved; can now tread on the sole when feet are placed together, though cannot bring heel to within half an inch of the ground; toes still somewhat turned inwards. The tendon was divided in the usual manner by the sub-cutaneous incision.

Operation for Removal of Tumor on the Head, by Actual Cautery, by Dr. **Warren.**—This patient was operated upon by ligature for the same disease, January 14th, but as the whole of the affected part was not perfectly strangulated, it had increased in size considerably since then, and at the time of operation presented a dark-red tumor, rising half an inch above the surrounding integument. Patient having been placed on the table, with a bandage over his eyes, an iron at a white heat was applied to the tumor, and this repeated until its whole extent and the edge of the sound skin surrounding it were cauterized. Some hæmorrhage accompanied and considerably retarded the operation by cooling the irons; patient complained of but little pain, except when the iron touched the sound skin.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

FEBRUARY 8, 1843.

With this number of the Journal, commences the *twenty-eighth volume* of the work. Through its entire existence, the patronage and kindness of the medical public has been constantly manifested ; and its prosperity, and extensive circulation in the United States and foreign countries, have encouraged us to issue it on a much larger sheet than heretofore, and to make such efforts to maintain its scientific character, as shall meet the approbation, we trust, of an intelligent, liberal-minded profession.

One of the advantages arising from the alteration, is that it will afford superior facilities for advertisements. Objections have not unfrequently been raised against their admission into the main body of the Journal ;—and some have expressed an opinion that the actual reader, who took it for the sole purpose of keeping pace with the current medical literature of the times, was compelled to take pages of advertisements, in which he had neither interest nor concern, to the exclusion of matter that rightfully belonged to him. Others have felt themselves aggrieved because they could not maintain a perpetual advertisement, or such frequent notices as would conduce to their success in a particular line of business, by the knowledge which physicians might have of them through the vehicle of a medical journal. The publisher has endeavored to avoid encroaching upon the pages of the Journal, and has devoted much less space to advertisements than the orders of advertisers required. As the present plan of a distinct advertising sheet will probably accommodate all who may in future wish to avail themselves of it, we hope to meet the expectations of all. It may be understood, therefore, in future, that the advertisements of publishers, booksellers, druggists, instrument makers, importers, medical schools, hospitals, societies, and all other medical notices, can have ready attention, and be allowed to remain in type according to the directions of those who order them.

It is necessary to add, that in consequence of the requisite increase of expenditure, a more strict compliance with the subscription terms of the Journal will hereafter be expected. As a preliminary step, the names of many individuals who are variously in arrears will be erased from our mailing book, until a settlement of their accounts is made. This number of the Journal, with their bills enclosed, will be sent to all such, and they are respectfully requested to forward the amounts due. The difficulty among physicians in collecting their own accounts, has in a great measure, it is presumed, been the cause of the present unusual amount of delinquency. We are willing to make due allowance, as we have before stated, for this state of things ; but must again remind those who are indebted for the Journal, of the great inconvenience to which we are in consequence subjected, with the hope that they will, at least, do the best they can towards remedying it.

Report of the Superintendent of the Maine Insane Hospital.—The third annual report of the superintendent and physician of this hospital, Dr. Isaac Ray, was made to the legislature of Maine in December, and is now published. According to the directors, the gross expenditures in 1842, were $8,817 73 ; and they estimate the probable expenses of the present year will be $8254 72. The current expenses of the hospital alone, aside from purchases for repairs of buildings, farm, or agricultural implements, amount to only $1,061 03, which shows it to be an exceedingly economically conducted charity. Dr. Ray says that the number of patients in the hospital, Dec. 31, 1842, was 65 ; viz. 47 males, and 18 females. The largest number at any one time, 73 ; and the smallest, 50 ; the average throughout the year, 62 1-6. After these statements, the doctor makes general remarks upon the success of different institutions, both at home and abroad, which are sensible and judicious, extending through several pages of the report. His observations on the table introduced, are those of a man who looks with a vigilant eye to the character and influence of the one which the people of Maine have wisely placed under his care.

We are well satisfied with Dr. Ray's general comments on the causes of insanity, and transcribe a few lines, regretting that opportunity is not presented for extracting more elaborately. " Insanity," he says, " is now universally considered as a disease of the brain, in the production of which we recognize two different orders of causes. In the first place, there is the predisposition to the disease, founded on some organic peculiarity, not well understood. We know that individuals greatly differ in this respect —that the circumstances which completely disorder the mind of one man, scarcely agitate that of another ; and that while one is constantly on the verge of insanity, however quietly he may live, another is perfectly safe from its attacks, though he may live perpetually in a whirlwind of mental excitement." Having spoken of the distinctions between these two orders of causes, and properly disposed of those convenient instruments, *intemperance, constitutional predisposition, domestic affliction, religious excitement,* &c., he gives his own views in a summary manner. Finally, after several acknowledgments to those who have been almoners in various ways to the hospital, by attentions that conduced to the happiness of the inmates, Dr. Ray closes the report, which is decidedly the best that has come from the institution. No allusion is made to Dr. Knapp, his predecessor, who came into office with singular energy, and walked out again into utter professional forgetfulness. There is a strange mystery hanging over his medical administration of the Maine Insane Hospital, that has not yet been understood in this region.

The Mother's Medical Guide in Children's Diseases.—But little had been heard, for a long season, of that pattern of industry, Dr. William A. Alcott, the author of several popular books on health and morals, till the appearance recently of the Mother's Medical Guide. Notwithstanding the author's singular theories, and his anti-isms,—for he professes not to have much respect for old customs or habits, either in eating, drinking, sleeping or dressing,—he is a staunch advocate for human improvement, and labors incessantly to bring about a change in the present state of society, that shall conduce, as he thinks, to physical well-being, longevity and mental activity. We have a respect for the doctor's kindness of heart, his sincerity and universal philanthropy, although differing from him on many subjects of general interest to mankind. His system of physiology is unlike that which exerts the most influence in the world, and believing it to be fars superior, it is not strange that he manifests a zealous regard for its extension. With a loftier purpose than actuates the mass of blind followers of blind guides, who are constantly crying out against the luxury of the age, and who starve themselves to be viewed as martyrs in the good cause of regeneration, Dr. Alcott enjoys a character for christian sincerity and honesty, which even his enemies, if any there are, readily acknowledge.

This, however, is wandering from the object immediately before us. The *Mother's Medical Guide*, from the accurate press of T. R. Marvin, gives a concise and proper description of the various diseases to which children are incident, in language that a mother will easily understand. She is taught by it to manage her children judiciously, till she can procure proper medical advice. The author does not aim, as we understand him, to convert all the matrons in christendom into doctresses, nor would he encourage them to drug a child for the sake of being independent of the regular profession ; simple means of alleviation are proposed, which will often have the effect of saving them from the infliction of a deluge of senseless doses, that quite as frequently kill as cure. Originality is not pretended : good suggestions are collected from all respectable sources, and adapted to the comprehension of judicious, common-sense mothers, who will be wiser for having an intimate acquaintance with this well-constructed volume. We certainly wish the publisher good success in the enterprise. The book is by no means beneath the attention of medical practitioners, who may find lessons in it that will meet their warmest approbation.

*General Therapeutics and Materia Medica.**—Two full-sized octavos, one having 489 pages, and the other 515, adapted for a text-book, by Dr. Dunglison, Professor of Institutes of Medicine, &c., in Jefferson Medical College, were received last week. We have had frequent occasion to speak of this gentleman's literary attainments and perseverance. He is beginning to be, in medicine, what Sir Walter Scott was in fiction, the most voluminous author of the age. The example of such indomitable, untiring industry will have a good influence on the medical character of this country.

The last production of his prolific pen, is in fact a second edition of his popular system of General Therapeutics, which has been familiar to the profession, and now essentially improved by having incorporated with it an account of the different articles of the materia medica. A decided object seems to have been, to construct a treatise expressly for the medical student. There is no obscurity in the text—no mystifications, requiring half a dozen other books to explain ; but, on the contrary, a judicious arrangement of such matter as must be understood by the student, yet perfectly scientific in all its details.

Neurology in Albany.—From the Daily Evening Albany Journal, of Jan. 28, which came to hand through the politeness of a correspondent, the accompanying editorial article is taken. Without comment or curtailment, it is here introduced to show the success of the new science, in one instance at least, in the capital of the empire state.

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* **General Therapeutics and Materia Medica, adapted for a Medical Text Book. By Robley Dunglison, M.D., Prof., &c., &c., Jefferson Med. College. In 2 vols. 8vo. Philadelphia. Lea & Blanchard. 1843.**

"This new philosophy, which has shot as far ahead of science as 'Millerism' is in advance of religion, received an ugly back-handed blow, last evening, in the presence of its great teacher, Dr. Buchanan himself! The rumor runs, that a Vermont youth, who is attending lectures in our medical college, desirous of acquiring that wisdom which triumphs over 'all the ills that flesh is heir to,' devoted himself for several weeks to the wonder-working effects of Animal Magnetism, the professors of which found him a most 'impressible' subject. The experiments tried upon this subject, by all the masters of the mystery, were pronounced perfect. They all pointed to *him* to establish the *truth* of their science. After trying some very shallow experiments in 'Neurology' upon this 'subject,' last evening, he was called upon to state what his *real* experience had been, and in reply, boldly pronounced the whole scheme a humbug! He said that for the last three months the 'Magnetizers' had been practising upon him; that finding him 'susceptible,' they had put him through all their experiments; and that they had pronounced him a *genuine* subject. He added, that in all this time, and through all their operations, he had not only never been asleep, but that he had never experienced the slightest magnetic effect from their manipulations and mummeries! The audience, which was numerous and highly intelligent, expressed their sense of obligation to this gentleman for having thus successfully exposed a miserable and pernicious scheme of charlatanism, by a hearty and emphatic vote of thanks."

Abstinence from Drinks.—An article went the rounds of the newspaper press, a few months since, in regard to Dr. Alcott's abstinence from drinks, which was productive of all kinds of remark from all kinds of people. Happening to have an interview with the doctor about that period, we requested him to furnish the Journal with the results of his experiment, for such his protracted abstinence was intended to be, with reference to a specific object. He has kindly complied, and an interesting narrative of his personal experience on the feasibility of abstaining from all kinds of drink, may be found in to-day's Journal.

The Albany Medical College.—A new catalogue and circular of the college is out. It shows that the institution is exceedingly prosperous, since the class consisted of one hundred and four persons. In 1839, thirteen took degrees; in 1840, seventeen; in 1841, thirty; and at the close of the late term, 27 were admitted to the degree of doctor in medicine. Two years ago, the legislature of the State of New York granted $15,000 towards the improvement of the building and the increase of the library, museum, and apparatus. The collection of pathological models of Dr. Thibert is exceedingly curious. A full course of lectures, commencing the first Tuesday of October next, costs only $70, and the graduation fee is fixed at $20.

Medical Miscellany.—Smallpox, say the exchange papers, is prevalent at New Orleans; as it is almost every where else the present winter.—A poor man at Udina, in Friule, lying under the frightful tortures of hydrophobia, is said to have been cured by draughts of vinegar, given by mistake, instead of something that had been ordered. A physician of Padua, hearing of the event, tried the vinegar upon a patient lying in the hospital, who had been bitten by a rabid animal, and he was restored. No great reliance, however, can be placed on these accounts.—A young Chinese is about being sent to a London hospital, from the Celestial empire, to obtain a knowledge of the art and mystery of surgery.—Dr. Buchanan, the neurologist, from Kentucky, is represented to be very successful in his lectures at Albany. He will soon be in Boston, where animal magnetism still thrives like a green bay-tree. Nothing promises such certain profit as *experiments* on Mesmerism, at ninepence a ticket, any where in the neighborhood of the Marlboro' Chapel.—A child died in New York, in consequence of having an application made to her head of arsenic and whiskey, which had been recommended as an excellent remedy for an eruption which she had. Red precipitate ointment was then liberally applied. The two produced violent retchings and vomition, ending in death.—W. Home, M.D., Assistant Staff Surgeon, and S. Sampson, are the medical gentlemen who issue the bulletins from the government, in the city of Kingston, in regard to the health of the Governor-general of Canada.—It seems that there has been a bit of a quarrel in the old medical school, at Baltimore, between two of the faculty, Dr. Smith and Dr. Hall, one the professor of surgery and the other of obstetrics. The correspondent of the Boston Courier says that the students call the case by the significant title of *scalpel* versus *forceps*. A sword cane was flourished on the occasion, and some other demonstrations of pugnacity made. The students are said to have parted the combatants.—Mrs. Deliverance Warren died recently at Redfield, N. Y., at the age of 104 years, 8 months, and 10 days.—Henry Gorman died in Chester co., Penn., recently, of the *glanders*, contracted from a horse which he bled, that had the disease. Having a scratch on one finger, the poison was imbibed, which terminated his life after severe sufferings, in about three weeks.—A second number of Braithwaite's Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, is published by Adee & Estabrook, 160 Nassau Street, and a good work it is. —It is proposed, it is understood, in New York, to constitute a medical board, composed of six physicians and six surgeons, to be appointed by the common council of the city, to whom shall be entrusted the management of the almshouse and almshouse hospital.—A little girl, five years old, is on exhibition at the New York Museum, who has arrived at the perfect state of womanhood. Her mammæ are as fully developed as those of a young woman of twenty. She is of a strumous habit, but, says Dr. Houston, enjoys vigorous health.—A small girl in Cabotville, Mass., raised a brass pin in a violent paroxysm of coughing, which had been swallowed, apparently, two years before. She is now perfectly well.—It is now boldly asserted that the Chinese understood the true circulation of the blood, two thousand years ago. They are also credited with having first introduced inoculation.—Erysipelas is again making its appearance in many places.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Feb. 4, 38.—Males, 15; Females, 23. Stillborn, 1. Of consumption, 8—infantile, 2—smallpox, 4—marasmus, 1—complication of diseases, 1—dropsy on the brain, 3—canker, 1—palsy, 1—disease in the head, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—tumor, 1—croup, 4—pleurisy, 1—insanity, 1—measles, 1—stoppage in the bowels, 1—inflammation in the throat, 1—disease of the brain, 1—liver complaint, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—debility, 1.

Under 5 years, 17—between 5 and 20 years, 5—between 20 and 60 years, 15—over 60 years, 1.

M. Guerin's Quarrel on Tenotomy.—The French medical journals have lately been very fully occupied with reports of discussions in the Acadamie Royale de la Medicine on the subject of TENOTOMY, or the section of the muscular tendons for the relief of club-foot and other of those deformities which are dependent in part on muscular contraction. M. Guerin is the great apostle of this practice, the benefits of which he astutely maintains against MM. Velpeau, Bouvier, Gerdy, and other distinguished French surgeons. According to M. Guerin there are two classes of tenotomists,—the scientific and able, and the empirical, or ignorant operators—the mob-tenotomists, the legitimate descendants of the barber-surgeon dynasty. Under the first of these classes M. Guerin ranks himself, and, moreover, demands to wear the crown alone, thinking no one worthy to be placed either on his right or his left. The rest of his surgical brethren are, by him, hustled, without distinction, into the second class, the class of the mob and the barbers. M. Velpeau has proved, in examining the points under discussion in detail, that M. Guerin not only has propounded nothing that is new, but, in fact, that the fixed laws and "grand principles" which he has compelled us to listen to for years are nothing more than may be found in surgical books generally, the authors of which never dreamed that they were communicating in them anything that was extraordinary. M. Guerin, in fact, seems to have nothing remarkable to communicate, excepting when he exaggerates, and then it is only remarkable that a man in his position should allow himself to do so. However, M. Velpeau has inserted a passage in his "Medicine Operatoire" which M. Guerin finds to be an unequivocal and invaluable testimony in support of his theory.—*London Lancet.*

Increase and Treatment of Cancer.—According to a report recently laid by M. Fanchon before the French Academy of Sciences, cancer is a disease which appears to increase in frequency with the progress of civilization. In 1830, 668 persons were said to have died of cancerous complaints in the department of the Seine (comprising Paris and its immediate environs within a radius of five or six miles), which was 1.96 per cent. of the deaths in the department for that year. In 1840, the number had risen to 889, or 2.4 per cent. of the total mortality. In Paris alone, in 1830, there were 595 deaths from cancer, and in 1840 as many as 779 deaths, or 2.54 per cent. on the whole number of deaths. In the rest of the department of the Seine 73 deaths took place in 1830; and in 1840, 110 deaths, or 1.63 per cent. The main object of M. Fanchon's communication is to propose means that may tend to arrest the mortality from tumors of the breast, superseding either the necessity of operations thereon, or the employment of caustic. Among other means he advises compression, and the continued application over the part affected of a muslin bag (*sachet*), containing a powder composed of 1 part of iodide of potassium, 2 parts of chloride of sodium, 2 of burnt sponge, in powder, and 8 of muriate of ammonia; or, at other times, the use of an absorbent powder, consisting of nitrate of potass and Florentine orris root, 1 part each, and powdered burnt sponge, 20 parts. Thirty individuals treated by the above remedies are said to have experienced such marked benefit as to require no operation, ultimately, for he excision of the diseased organ. In some, though not many cases, the mammary glands are stated to have become wholly absorbed, as an effect of the applications.—*Ibid.*